

A FEW FACTS OF CAVAN LANDSCAPE: Ann O' Donoghue

County Cavan is a county in Ireland. It is in the province of Ulster and is part of the Border Region of Northern Ireland. Its name after the town Cavan and is based on the historic Gaelic territory of East Breffny. Cavan was part of the petty Kingdom ruled by Breffny O' Reilly (Breifne).

The translation of Cavan in Gaelic is "An Chabhain" "Hollow"; Cavan borders Leitrim to the West, Fermanagh and Monaghan to the North, Meath to the South East, Longford to the South – West, and West Meath to the South.

Cavan as a boy's name is of Gaelic origin, and the meaning of Cavan is "handsome"

The population results shown in the 2016 census was 76,176 in County Cavan.

Cavan town 10,194 population <http://cavanpnh.weebly.com.com/uploads/census.....>

The landscape of Cavan is dominated by drumlins fields, the drumlins consist of thick cover of boulder clay that got deposited into drumlin oval hills 80 to 100ft high shapes, at the end of an ice age when the ice melted resulting in small hills and lakes. This tranquil journey around the Drumlin landscape of Cavan at Turbet Island, Belturbet in County Cavan. The route continues through the peaceful countryside containing some of the glacial landscapes in Ireland and historical sites dating back to early Christian time.

Cavan is well known for its lakes. There are 365 lakes in Cavan one for every day of the year. The lakes are very popular for locals and visitors. Some of the fish caught in the Cavan lakes are Bream, Roach, Perch, Pike and Eels. The Northeast of the county is mountainous and many blanket and raised bogs found due to the ice age. There are twenty-four named mountains in County Cavan among many more hills and mountains.

The highest and most prominent mountain is Cuilcagh on the border between County Fermanagh and county Cavan with a height of (665 metres). <https://peakvisor.com/h/adm/county-cavan>.

In the Spring the grasslands are full of colour with wildflowers and herbs at the lower slopes of Cuilcagh mountain. In recent years Cuilcagh mountain has become popular with walkers with its new boardwalk that leads up to the top of the Cuilcagh mountain summit. I have many photographs of that wonderful Cuilcagh mountain walk. County Cavan is a paradise for walkers with wide variety of walks for all fitness levels.

The Shannon Pot in Glangevlin County Cavan on the slopes of Cuilcagh mountain is the source of the river Shannon, the longest river in Ireland at 386km (240m) Its small streams high up in the Cuilcagh mountain disappear into the limestone and join up together in the underground before breaking through to the surface as a spring. It drains one fifth of the Island. >attraction. <https://driftingapart.ccght.org/sites/>https://www.marblearchcavegeopark>

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Lough Sheelin is the biggest lake situated in the North Midlands on the borders of Cavan, Meath, and Westmeath, and is part of the river Inny system. It is four miles long and one mile wide.

Cavan is a rural county. Agriculture is an important part in the economic growth of County Cavan especially dairy milk processing as well as pig and beef farming, Cavan has expanded into other industries including quarrying. Cavan is one of Ireland's leading counties for pig production. The valleys are poorly drained with extensive bogs and lakes. Cavan land consists of clay soil which is rich in minerals and good for pasture farming. Some of the crops grown: oats, potatoes, flax, and wheat, which has become common in the last few years.

In Lough Ramor, Virginia County Cavan not too far from my home, some of the original oak has been retained in the forest. Well known forests have been planted near Killashandra, the loop, Killakeen forest Park, Belturbet, Burren forest, Coothill, Dun-a -Ri near Kingscourt and in many more towns in the county Cavan.

The Railway landscapes:

Midland Great Western Railway built a line between Inny Junction in Co Westmeath and Cavan town. The first train to leave Cavan railway station in Swellan in Cavan departed on 8th July 1856 for Dublin. A lot of people turned out for this historic day. The railway station was an important part of the economic development of Cavan. The railway carried passengers and freight all over Ireland.

People could travel easily between towns and support their local GAA in their area. The Cavan and Clones extension was an extension of the Ulster railway from Clones in County Monaghan open in 1862. Cavan was the link between Great Northern Railway (NGR) and Midland Great Western Railway (MGR) increasing trade and business in Cavan town. Goods could be moved easily to Belfast, the North and Dublin.

I remember my mother telling me when her family lived in Clones Co Monaghan, she came to Cavan town on the train with her two younger sisters every Saturday for their shopping and go to the pictures.

1947 all uneconomic lines were terminated due to shortage of coal after World War II. Though the transport of freight and livestock continued. All services along The Great Northern Railway continue to service Cavan and Leitrim railway.

In 1959 all service along the remaining rail lines were terminated and the stations along their routes were closed.

The last passenger train left on October 14th, 1957 Great Northern Railway. (G.N.R.)

Belturbet station is open as a railway museum.

